

Message Text

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PAGE 01 QUITO 02609 192320Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-10 LAB-04
NSAE-00 SIL-01 OC-06 CCO-00 AID-05 PC-01 OPR-02
A-01 SY-05 HA-05 MCT-01 SCS-06 CA-01 PM-05 H-01
L-03 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00
INRE-00 /098 W

-----087422 192330Z /64

O R 192240Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY QUITO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7976
INFO AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
AMEMBASSY LIMA
AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL
DIA WASHDC
USCINCSO QUARRY HTS CZ

C O N F I D E N T I A L QUITO 2609

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PORS, EC
SUBJECT: CONTINUATION OF QUITO DISORDERS

REF: QUITO 2545

1. CIVIL DISORDER CONTINUED IN QUITO ON APRIL 18, WELL INTO THE THIRD WEEK. ALTHOUGH INCIDENTS WERE SPORADIC AND ISOLATED, THE LEVEL OF VIOLENCE INCREASED DURING THE DAY TO INCLUDE EXCHANGE OF SHOTS BETWEEN DEMONSTRATORS AND POLICE. POLICE REPORTED RECEIVING SHOTS FROM THE CENTRAL UNIVERSITY MEDICAL SCHOOL HOSPITAL FOUR BLOCKS FROM THE EMBASSY. MORNING NEWSPAPERS REPORTED EIGHT INDIVIDUALS (NOT POLICE) BEING TREATED FOR GUNSHOT WOUNDS IN LOCAL HOSPITALS. ALSO, CONGEN GUAYAQUIL REPORTED SIGNIFICANT INCIDENTS THE EVENING OF APRIL 18.

2. THE GOE HAS MAINTAINED ITS DECISION NOT TO RELENT ON
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PAGE 02 QUITO 02609 192320Z

THE AUTHORIZED 40 PERCENT BUS FARE INCREASE AND BUS SERVICE IS GRADUALLY BEING RESTORED TO THE CITY. REPORTS INDICATED CONFLICTS APRIL 18 BETWEEN STUDENTS AT CENTRAL UNIVERSITY AND THE ARMY, WHICH CONTINUES TO PATROL THE CITY AFTER 1600.

3. COMMENT: THE DISORDERS ARE NOT SUSTAINED THROUGH

MASSIVE POPULAR SUPPORT, THOUGH SOME WORKERS IN THE SOUTHERN AREAS OF THE CITY CONTINUE TO PARTICIPATE IN DISTURBANCES DURING THE EVENING HOURS. THE CONTINUATION OF VIOLENCE, THEN, APPEARS TO BE THE WORK OF A RELATIVE SMALL NUMBER OF DETERMINED DEMONSTRATORS.

4. ALTHOUGH WE HAVE NO CONCRETE INFORMATION ON WHO IS FANNING THE FLAMES, THE FINGER POINTS TO THE SO-CALLED PEKING LINE COMMUNISTS WHO CONTROL THE UNIVERSITY STUDENT ASSOCIATION (FEUE) AND THE SECONDARY STUDENT ASSOCIATION (FESE). IN THE PAST THE PEKING LINE HAS BEEN MORE PUGNACIOUS AND TEMPERAMENTALLY PRONE TO VIOLENCE. IF THE PEKING LINE COMMUNISTS ARE IN FACT INSPIRING THE DISORDERS, THAT COULD AS WELL EXPLAIN THE PRESENCE OF FACTORY WORKERS AT THE BARRACADES DURING THE EVENING HOURS; THE PEKING LINE ALSO CONTROLS NUMBER OF UNIONS BELONGING TO THE GENERALLY SOVIET LINE COMMUNIST LABOR CONFEDERATION, THE CTE. BUT, GIVEN THE APPARENT LACK OF POPULAR SUPPORT AND THE FIRM REFUSAL OF THE GOE TO BACK DOWN ON THE BUS FARE INCREASES, IT IS DIFFICULT TO SEE WHAT THE PROMOTORS OF THE VIOLENCE HOPE TO GAIN IN ITS CONTINUATION.
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